

# **OCALI Webinar Best AT Tools 2010 Resource Websites**

## **Introduction**

### Prezi

<http://prezi.com/>

Prezi is a web-based presentation application and storytelling tool that uses a single canvas instead of traditional slides. Text, images, videos and other presentation objects are placed on the canvas and grouped together in frames. The frames are then viewed in the order you set by zooming to them and enlarging on the screen.

## **1. Reading/Learning Resources**

### Tarheel Reader

<http://tarheelreader.org/>

Tarheel Reader is a searchable collection of free, easy-to-read, and accessible books on a wide range of topics. The books may be downloaded as slide shows in *PowerPoint*, Impress, or Flash format. Each book can be speech enabled and accessed using multiple interfaces, including touch screens, the IntelliKeys with custom overlays, and 1 to 3 switches. You may write your own books using your own pictures and text.

### Simple Wikipedia

[http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Articles in the Simple English Wikipedia use fewer words and easier grammar than the English Wikipedia. The Simple English Wikipedia is written for people with different needs, such as students, children, adults with learning difficulties and people who are trying to learn English.

### ReadWriteThink

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/>

ReadWriteThink is project of the International Reading Assoc. and the National Council of Teachers of English. It contains lesson plans and strategy guides for teachers and online interactive tools for students. Focus areas include reading fluency and comprehension, phonological awareness, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, critical thinking, inquiry/research, literary analysis, text/story structure, and writing process.

### Flex Books

<http://www.ck12.org/flexr/>

CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to reduce the cost of textbook materials for K-12 by providing free on-line textbooks. CK-12 allows users to create, customize, update, and print what is to be taught. This is done using different modules that may suit a learner's learning style, region, language, or level of skill, while adhering to the local education standards. Focus is on physical sciences, mathematics and life sciences.

### WatchKnow

<http://www.watchknow.org/default.aspx>

WatchKnow has indexed over 15,000 online educational videos for children, putting them into a directory of over 3,000 categories. The videos are available without any registration or fees to teachers in the classroom and to students at home 24/7. You can use their directory or search by subject and age level. Video titles, descriptions, age level information, and ratings are all edited by a panel of experts for usefulness.

### Tooble

<http://tooble.tv/>

Download, convert, and import videos all in one step. Tooble automatically imports videos directly into iTunes.

### Download Helper

<http://www.downloadhelper.net/>

A Firefox extension that enables you to save videos from most of the popular video sites.

### 60second Recap

<http://www.60secondrecap.com/>

60second Recap wants to make the great works of literature accessible, relevant, and irresistible to today's teens. 60second Recap video albums cover an overview, plot, characters, context, themes, symbols, motifs and a conclusion of a literature classic. They provide an alternative to text-based study guides of literature.

## **2. Writing/Presentation Resources**

### Glogster

<http://edu.glogster.com>

Glogster is a free website where teachers and students can create virtual posters called "glogs". Unlike physical posters, glogs can include audio and video as well as text and pictures. Glogs can be easily edited and changed at anytime. Glogs are published online in a private and safe platform, monitored directly by teachers. Note: the Glogster.com site is an open forum and not appropriate for educational use.

### Make Beliefs Comix

<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>

Create up to a six-panel comic strip by choosing characters and their emotions, add thought or talk balloons, and add objects and prompts. When finished you can print or email; comics are not saved on the site. Site also has Teacher Ideas and Family Fun writing prompts and activities.

### Word Magnets

<http://www.triptico.co.uk/resources/wordMagnets/WordMagnets.html>

Create engaging interactive activities by entering text, scramble it and sort words by selecting, dragging and placing on the screen. Choose from a range of over 40 backgrounds

or upload an image to be displayed as the background of your activity. Save activities for future use or to share with other teachers.

#### VoiceThread

<http://ed.voicethread.com/> - home

A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows people to navigate pages and leave comments in 5 ways - using voice with a mic or telephone, typing text, uploading an audio file, or a video. Single accounts are free. Ed.VoiceThread is a purchased option that is restricted to K-12 educators, students and administrators.

#### My Story Maker

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids/storymaker/>

Created by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, My StoryMaker lets you make a story by choosing themes, characters and objects and animations. The program then creates sentences based on these themes. Once you have created a story, you can print it out. You cannot go back and edit a story once you have ended it but, if you click "yes" when asked to share it with others, you can print it out again by entering the magic number it gives you. It's easy for students at any ability level to write a story that looks great.

#### Wordle

<http://www.wordle.net/>

Wordle is an online tool for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle Gallery to share.

#### Tagxedo

<http://www.tagxedo.com/>

Tagxedo turns words -- famous speeches, news articles, slogans and themes into a visually stunning tag cloud, words individually sized appropriately to highlight the frequencies of occurrence within the body of text. Similar to Wordle, Tagxedo can constrain the cloud to selected shapes (heart, star, cloud, oval, etc) 30 themes, over 30 fonts, and 30 free shapes to choose from.

#### Blabberize

<http://blabberize.com/>

A free website to upload a picture, record your voice and have the mouth move in sync with your speech. Can be used to have students record information about a topic or biography and present it in an entertaining way.

#### Sam Animation

<http://www.samanimation.com/>

SAM Animation is downloadable software that allows the user to make stop-action movies using a webcam and whatever props the user desires. It is designed to give students at all

levels the power of making stop-action animations to share their ideas and understanding. The software is both Mac and PC compatible and free to all users who register.

### **3. Study Skills Resources**

#### Webspiration

<http://mywebspiration.com/about>

Webspiration is an online graphic organizer developed by creators of Inspiration. It combines the power of visual thinking and outlining to enhance thinking, learning and collaboration. Use Webspiration to map out ideas, organize with outlines, and collaborate online. Create concept maps, mind maps, idea webs and other visual thinking models in Diagram View. Build organized outlines, plans and reports with Outline View. Free, but users need to create an account in order to use the product.

#### Merriam-Webster Visual Dictionary Online

<http://visual.merriam-webster.com/index.php>

An online dictionary with 20,000 terms with contextual definitions and 6,000 full-color images of a wide variety of objects from all aspects of life. Illustrations are labeled with accurate terminology in up to six languages.

#### VocabAhead

<http://vocabahead.com/Default.aspx>

VocabAhead offers videos that give an active demonstration of vocabulary words as well as an audio of the pronunciation, the definition, various uses, and synonyms. Students can also go through flash cards which give a written definition and visual representation of the word.

#### Flash Card Machine

<http://www.flashcardmachine.com/>

A free web application that enables users to create interactive web-based study flash cards. Students can create flash cards to help study and share them with classmates. Teachers can create flash cards for students and build customized pages for each class to better organize cards.

#### Awesome Highlighter

<http://www.awesomehighlighter.com/>

Awesome Highlighter lets you highlight text on web pages and then gives you a small link to the highlighted page. It can be used to show others the important parts of an article, reduce confusion about a sent link, or save the parts of the pages you find interesting. Highlighted text is placed in a separate document that can be placed on the clipboard or emailed.

#### Shmoop

<http://www.shmoop.com/>

Shmoop provides Learning Guides and Teaching Resources written by educators and doctorate students at universities, primarily Stanford, Harvard, and UC Berkeley. Our guides have a balance of an approachable style with academically rigorous materials to help students understand how subjects relate to their daily lives. Shmoop offers more than 3,000 titles across literature, poetry, US history, civics, biography, music and AP exams.

#### Live Binders

<http://livebinders.com/>

LiveBinders enables you to do with digital information what you do with the papers on your desk - organize them into containers. It is primarily a way to collect and catalog websites. You can also upload documents, images, videos and easily combine them with your links in an organized way. You may create as many Livebinders as you need to help organize the stuff you collect and share on the Web.